



United States Department of the Interior

Fish and Wildlife Service

Ecological Services

Montana Field Office

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Helena, Montana 59601-6287

Phone: (406) 449-5225 Fax: (406) 449-5339



10,166

December 16, 2015

Mark Chalfant
EPA Region 8
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, Colorado 80202-1129

Dear Mr. Chalfant:

This is in response to your agency's notification to Federal Natural Resource Trustees regarding the Anaconda Aluminum Co. Columbia Falls Reduction Plant Superfund site, Flathead County, MT SSID#A8-82. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Montana Field Office has interest in pursuing a Natural Resource Damage Assessment on the site as well as the possibility of an Interagency Agreement with EPA. In addition the Service has concerns about the ecological risks to our trust resources from contaminants on site and potentially causing contaminant loading to the Flathead River which is designated as critical habitat for the federally listed threatened bull trout. These comments are provided as technical assistance and do not constitute a position the Department of the Interior may take regarding possible injury to natural resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to assert our claims at this site. If you require further information as project planning proceeds, please contact Karen Nelson in this office at (406) 449-5225, extension 210, or at the letterhead address.

Sincerely,

Jodi L. Bush
Field Supervisor

cc: Robert Stuart
Mike Cirian
Scott Wilder